MINK
TOKYOPOP
4
Megumi Tachikawa

電脳少女☆
サイバーアイドル
Mink
ミンク
4

電脳少女☆ Mink

Volume 4

By
Megumi Tachikawa

TOKYOPOP

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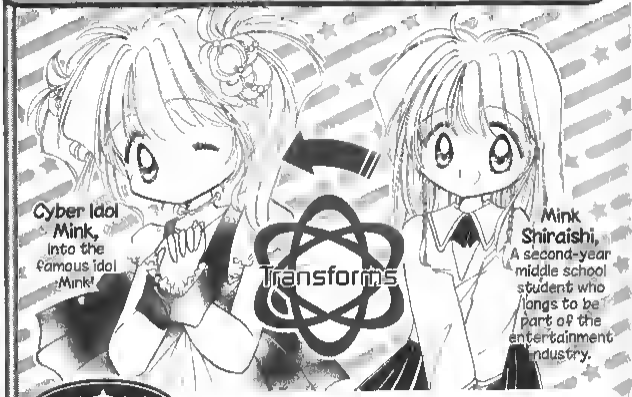
WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF

電脳少女★Mink

▶▶▶ Cyber Idol Mink Travels the World ▶▶▶



Cyber Idol Mink, into the famous idol Mink!

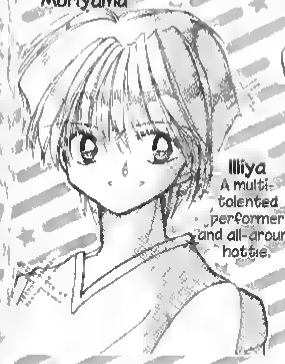
Mink Shiraishi, A second-year middle school student who longs to be part of the entertainment industry.

★★★★★ Story

* Mink Shiraishi was just a normal, mild-mannered girl longing for super-stardom--normal until she stumbled upon a computer program from the future called WANNA-BE. With WANNA-BE, Mink was able to make her dreams come true, transforming into "Cyber Idol Mink" (or just Mink, as her fans know her) by using the software. She's quickly become a national sensation.
* But there's one very big problem--when Mink became Mink, she violated the Space-Time Maintenance Guidelines that forbid using software from the future. If caught, Mink and her friends face the possibility of permanent erasure! On top of that, she's the target of a bully (older idol Azumi Mizuhara) and a vicious gossip-columnist (Johnny Hotta). Mink's living life on the not-so-comfortable edge!
* To top it all off, hot star Illiya has just announced his new "Illiya Label," and the word around town is that Cyber Idol Mink will be switching record labels to join him. It's just a rumor, but it's making things a little shaky between Mink and her manager...

Manoko Toriumi Mink's friends. **Kanoka Moriyama**

Motoharu Toriumi Cyber Idol Mink's manager... only a high school student himself.



Illiya A multi-talented performer and all-around hottie.

WANNA-BE This software lets you become the self you "wanna be" by mixing technology of the future with fantasies of today.

Johnny Hotta A suspicious gossip columnist who follows Mink around.

Azumi Mizuhara A super-popular idol.

OM The WANNA-BE software guide.

電脳少女★Mink

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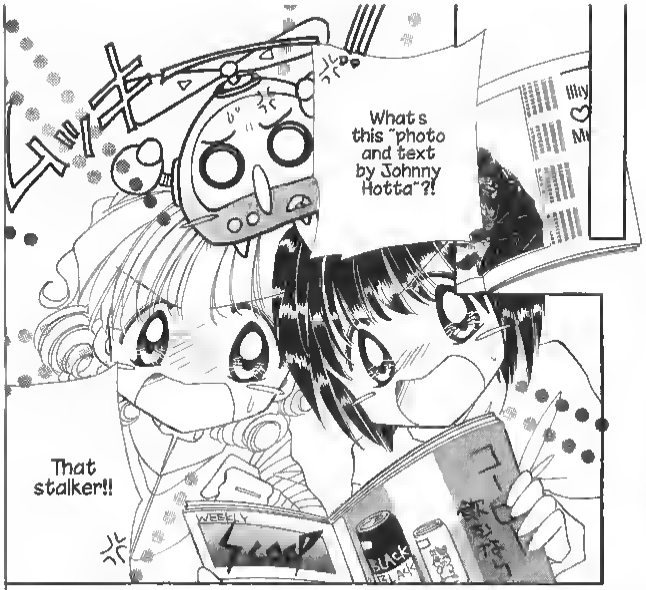
Mink, please comment on that article!!
Bird Music, LLC
What are you doing with Illiya?
Where's Mink?! Come out!
Don't mess with us Illiya fans!
We won't hand over Illiya!
How did I get involved in this?
Where's Mink?
A Tough Battle?! Mink Versus Her Record Label, Bird Music
Was Her Production Company Ordered to "Sell" Her?
Is Illiya Her Springboard to American Super Stardom?
Mink's Surprising Act of Self-Promotion

Hot love! A Christmas date...
for Illiya and Mink Does this mean she's really changing labels?!
Photo and text / Johnny Holts



The brightness is Mink.
Don't take Iliya
It's a present from Iliya's fans Creepy huh?
Hope you have fun and music!
What are you going to do, Mink?

*Ow ow ow

*Ka-Boom!!

Actually, don't you mean someone else's hard work?
I'm glad I didn't give up. All my hard work paid off, didn't it?
This day was a long time in coming.
As in my hard work?
I did it! I've finally gotten Mink embroiled in a scandal!!
With Mink out of the way, I'll be the focus of everyone's worship!
Anyhow, I am going to rule the new millennium!!
After this, the New Year's Eve Platinum Disk for "Best New Performing Artist" will be mine!!

Hello, I'm Megumi Tachikawa. This makes the fourth volume of Cyber Idol Mink! At least for now, this is the last book about the entertainment world. The cyber volumes (or the future-volumes, as we also call them in meetings) have begun!

For your enjoyment, there'll be more and more events and characters appearing from the future from now on. I still plan to have fun with you in our Q & A sections. As always, it'll be "non-genre," so o! Megumi here will write about whatever she likes: the background music I listen to while I work, lists of my favorite dramas. So if you'd like to read along, please join me.

Okay, okay. Back to Mink and her cyberspace. Here we go!

I'd made up my mind to keep Mink around for the sake of Bird Music and Motoharu...and I'm sorry...I didn't expect it to get like this...really.

These rumors, the press is killing me, treating my senpai this way...

...it's horrible!!

BAGOOON!!

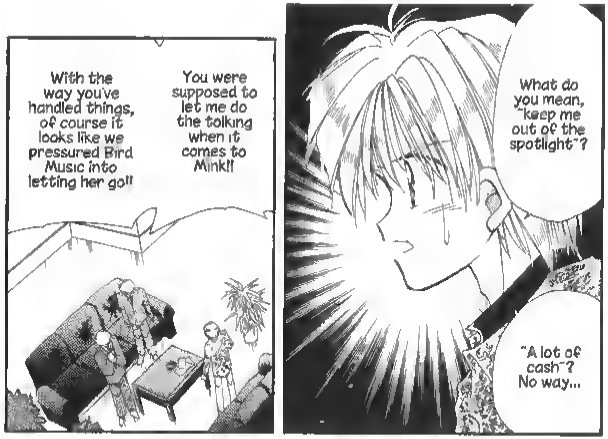
That's it--I'm furious!!

Cyber Idol Angry Transformation

Take that!!

Where's she going?!

She's going to the tabloid publishers!!


With the way you've handled things, of course it looks like we pressured Bird Music into letting her go!!
You were supposed to let me do the talking when it comes to Mink!!
What do you mean, "keep me out of the spotlight"?
"A lot of cash"? No way...

I want...
...to apologize for this sordid way of doing business!!
You've got a lot of nerve!!
I'm not letting you out in front for a while...
Got it?

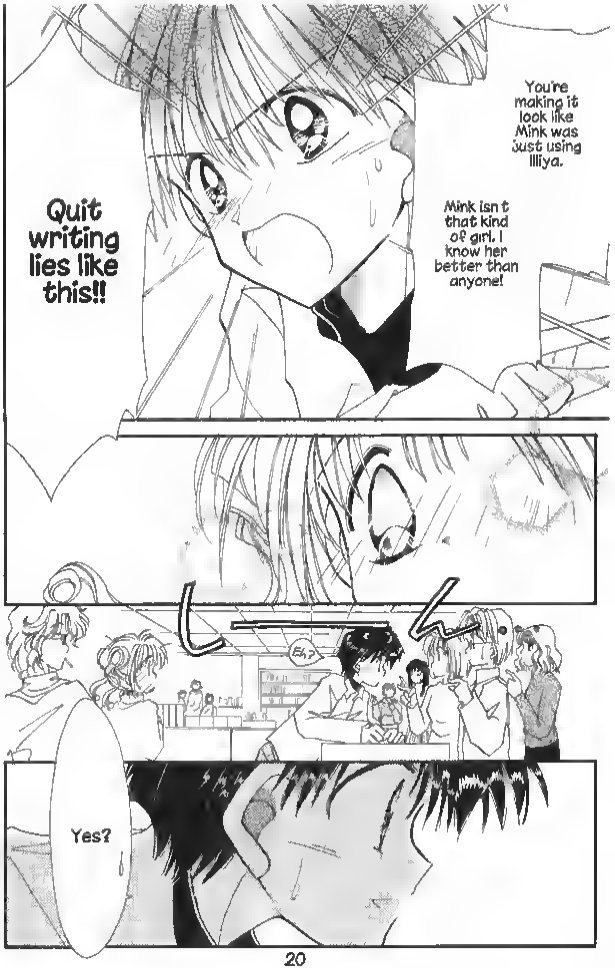
What is going on?!
You need to guard against this kind of indiscretion!!
How did they get this picture at such a crucial time...?
Yeah! Because Mink has the potential to bring in a lot of cash.
I've pulled some strings to keep you out of this spotlight, Iliya.
Right?
!!

That's no way to speak to him!
Get out here, Johnny Hotta!
I'm only doing my job and with my talent...
That's NOT what I came here to say!!
Scoop
It's your own indiscretion that's led to this scandal.
There's no one for you to whine to, is there?
She's knowing herself.
Well, you're here, aren't you?

Scoop EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
文文社
Where's the person who took this photo?!
I want to talk to the person who wrote this article!!
Scoop EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
Uh oh. Mimi?
It's Mimi!

Huh?
Please retract it!!!
That's right. We are no longer associated.
Motoharu...
Once Mink switched labels, she was freed of obligations to Bird Music.
But there's one thing I won't let go...

This has nothing to do with Motoharu...
...whatsoever.
Don't make up lies!!
Certainly, it's my indiscretion. However, what's this about Bird Music having a strategy to use Iliya as a springboard?!
He always thinks about those around him, about my best interests...
That's right. He doesn't act that way.
Motoharu, it couldn't be that...
He actually okayed the move for me?
Anyway, this article...
Always thinks about..
...my best interests?


Quit writing lies like this!!
You're making it look like Mink was just using Illiya.
Mink isn't that kind of girl. I know her better than anyone!
Eh?
Yes?

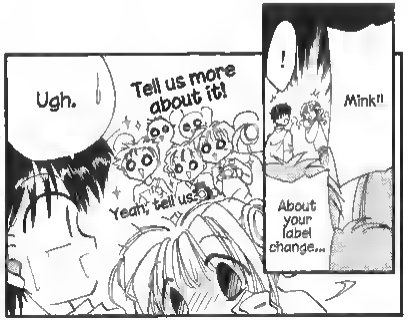
What are you...
...doing here?
M-m-m-m-Mink...?
What are you doing here?
Forget all that, Motoharu! Mink isn't—
That's right, she's an idol and isn't supposed to worry about the business end of things.
I think they call this "out of the frying pan, into the fire."
He's the boss. So I shouldn't step in because he's supposed to defend himself.
You're both idiots.
Think about your positions.
Like I was saying, two idiots.
Right?
Huh?

My costume design helpers

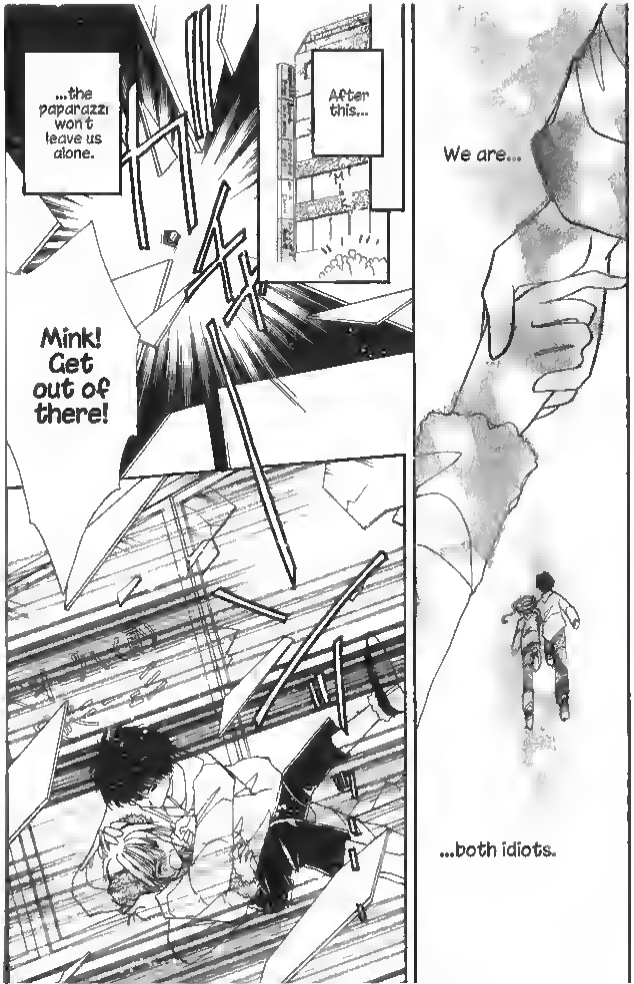
Title page of Chapter 15--
Ayako Yamanashi of Shizuoka Prefecture
Mink's stage costume in Chapter 15--
Ayako Ootake of Aichi Prefecture
Mink's hair styling in Chapter 17
Kaoru Monma of Fukushima Prefecture
Mink's stage costume in Chapter 17--
Chihoko Saitou of Iwate Prefecture
Mink's stage costumes in Chapter 19
Naoko Kikuchi of Yokohama City
And for the illustrations in the Appendix, I used designs by
Akio Saitou of Hokkaido

You all added such beautiful colors to your designs that it's a shame that we can't show them in color here, too

If you ever think up other super designs, absolutely send them in, okay?



!
Motoharu, we can't go any farther.

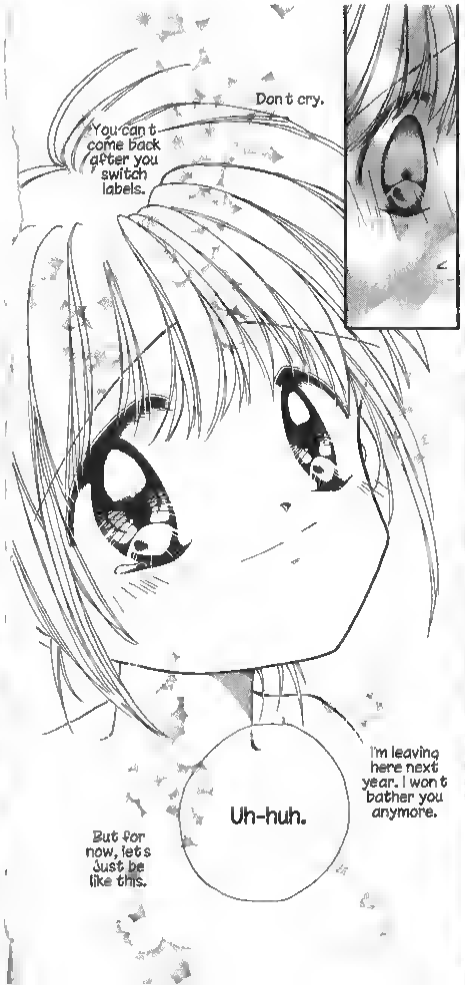

...the paparazzi won't leave us alone.
After this...
Mink! Get out of there!
We are...
...both idiots.

Mink's manager climbs like a monkey
They escaped!
Dammit!
Huff
Huff
What's so funny?
This is hardly humorous
But, he's kinda right...
HEHE
HEHE
HEHE
ffff

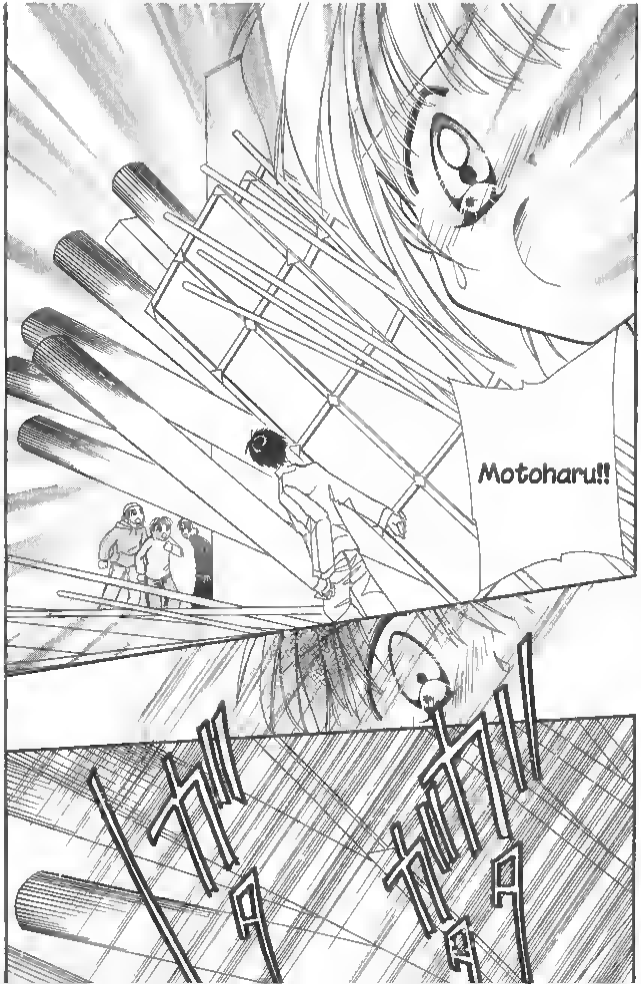
Couldn't think of a real answer.
What was that about?
That was not good.
Aah... what a relief.
You've really gotten stronger, you know that?

Mink, you're still a diva.
You tricked Illiya!
That was dangerous. You could have hit us!!
Yeah, you did.
You can keep your youthful glow with the "Parfait Series" line of Mink cosmetics!
Please try it, everyone!
Catch the commercial on TV today!!
Yeah, with that perfect complexion...
Boy, isn't it great to be young!!
*Rattle rattle!

15 minutes until show time.
The 15th Platinum Disk Awards
New Year's Eve... And Motoharu is standing by me ta the last performance.
Camera check's okay.
Uh
Uh


Don't cry.
You can't come back after you switch labels.
Uh-huh.
But for now, let's just be like this.
I'm leaving here next year. I won't bother you anymore.
I think you'll be okay...
...even without me around.

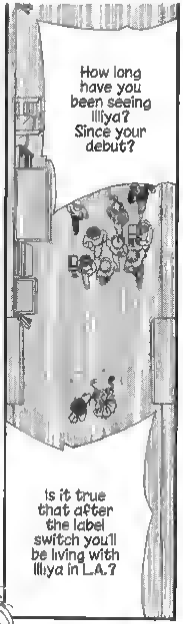
Ugh. What annoying gossip.
Because of somebody, the film trucks keep circling and just won't give up.
That's right. But they won't be interested in their precious Mink anymore once you win the award.
Oh, Mink?!
I mean, you need to be popular to win this award, don't you?
It's terrible to be at the center of a big scandal, isn't it?
If your fans despise you, all the attention in the world doesn't matter.
Yuka, don't get yourself in tro-ouble
Whoops! Of course, I think Mink's got a great chance to win, too.
That's so you.
You're not thinking about the award?!
Jeez, you already think it's yours?! You've got nerve.
I don't care about the award right now.
I'm just wondering if Motoharu will be backstage for this last time.
Mink, this way!!
Mink!
We have a question about Iliya.
I am not going to lose.
That's not what I meant—
I'm trying to tell you that that's NOT what I meant!!
I gotta get out of here.
The Award for Best New Talent will be miiiiiine!
Motoharu!
Clear this up for us!!


Motoharu!!
KA
KA
KA

Whoa-- they're over there, too.
In five minutes we're live.
This is too much, following me even back here.
Actually, Mink's my one of fans.
He he

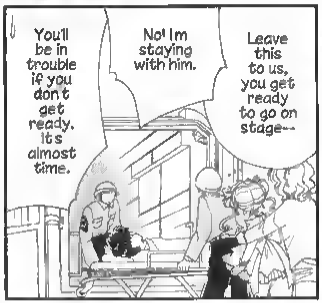
You think you're ditching us? Look this way!

Mink, hurry up and get out.
Come on, we're going onstage soon.
PUSH!

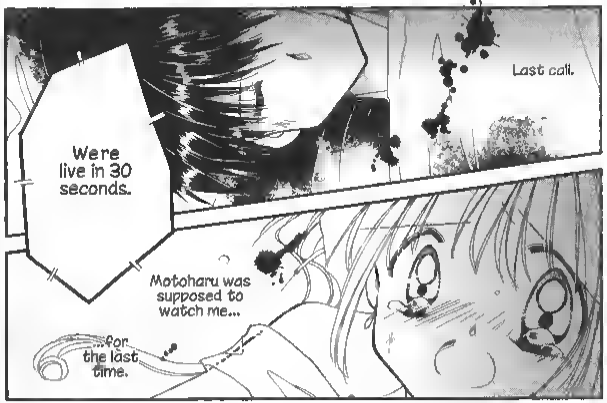

How long have you been seeing Illiya? Since your debut?
Is it true that after the label switch you'll be living with Illiya in L.A.?

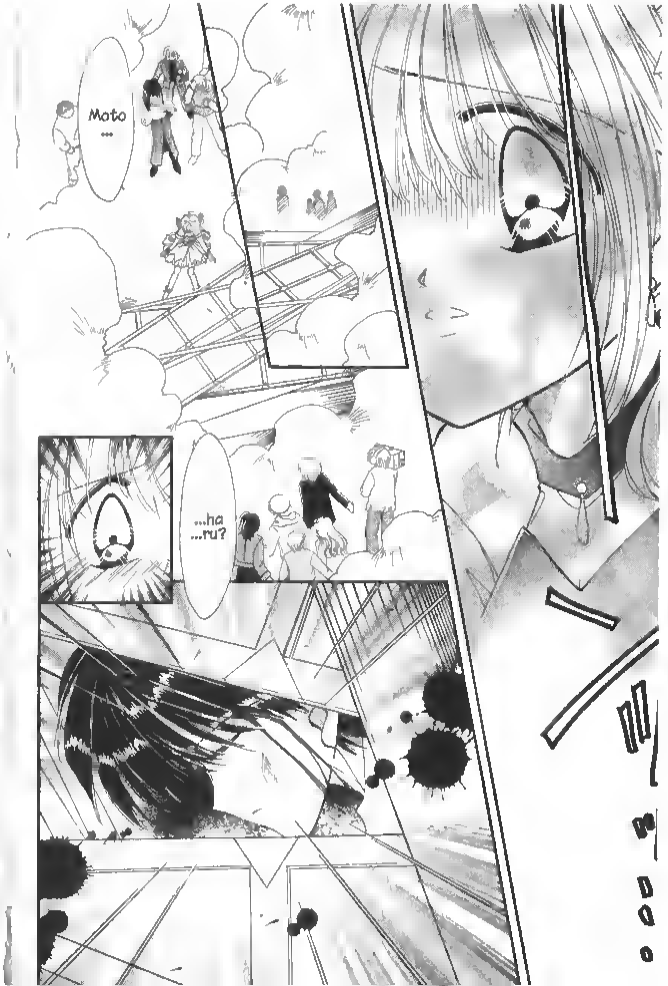
!!
*Creak

There's been an accident! Call an ambulance!
Hang in there, Motoharu!


You'll be in trouble if you don't get ready. It's almost time.
No! I'm staying with him.
Leave this to us, you get ready to go on stage--

What are you doing?!
Mink, you need to get ready to go on st--
Don't try moving. Your head is trapped.


Last call.
We're live in 30 seconds.
Motoharu was supposed to watch me...
...for the last time.


Moto ...
...ha ...ru?

電脳少女☆Mink
Chapter 16
The Platinum Network

WEEeeee
WEEeeee
Motoharu!!!
Not this! Please!
The last...

Songs I've Been Listening To

First singles
"Can you keep a secret?" by Hikaru Utada
"Even Though I Really Want to Cry," by KAB
"Far Away," by Spits
"YELL," by KOBUKURO
Then, albums
"Synchronicity" by Olivia
"LOVE LIFE" by Hitomi
"Very Best" by V6
"Fee?" by Pornographitty
"INSOMNIA," by Chihiro Onitsuka

There haven't been that many CDs out lately. I wonder why? I guess that's why I've had to list so many drama theme songs. I don't have the CD, but lately I've liked the one with four-person ZONE and Aya Matsuura. The songs and the singers are cute. Also, there's a youth show on late at night with Shunsuke Kazama. I don't remember the title, but I watch it sometimes just to watch him. During this volume, my favorite album was "Best Album" by V6. Come to think of it, he's also on "Punky Kids" by Inetchi. I think I'm seeing double, the two of them look so much alike. BTW, the artists whose entire collections I have are Hitomi and Takako Matsu. They're the ones I always buy. Whose do you always buy?

『With』!!
ドキン ドキン
Ba-dump ba-dump

This is your chance to make the decision!! Go!!
Now, let's announce the songs.
Azumi!
The first in our line-up is Azumi Mizuhara.
Azumi!
The nominated song is...
This award goes to the artist who's placed first in a number of categories...
...Wired Request, Karaoke Chart, CD sales and audience votes.
We are taking votes online and by telephone while we announce the songs of the nominees.

We did it! We got through!
Motoharu...
One more vote for Azumi!
I can't sing feeling like this...
Azumi!
If only Motoharu didn't have his eyes shut like that.
Azumi!
Azumi!

Really bad timing.
Her competition is Mink, but that scandal is working against her.
It only makes sense, as she's a regular on TV.
And been in a drama.
Azumi Mizuhara is leading in the fan vote.
She's got connections!

Looks like it's going to be Azumi Mizuhara.
Thank you!
Hey!
PLATINUM DISK AWARDS

Motoharu isn't here.
I'll be all alone on the stage, again.
He's lost a lot of blood.
Motoharu's hurt.

Hey, don't shout--you'll strain your voice.
You don't want to blow it after you win the Album Prize!

Mm--
Iliya!

Okay, let's have her sing for us!
Motoharu's not here.
Mink!!
The nominoted song is "Velvet Angel"...
I said I'll be there.

Go Azumi!
Head to the polls immediately
I've already...
...won.
Mink, your people aren't with you!
Relax, I said I'll be there.
I'm switching labels. From now on, Motoharu won't be backing me up while I'm out there.
That's right.
WEEE...
WEEE...
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
I don't have anyone with me.

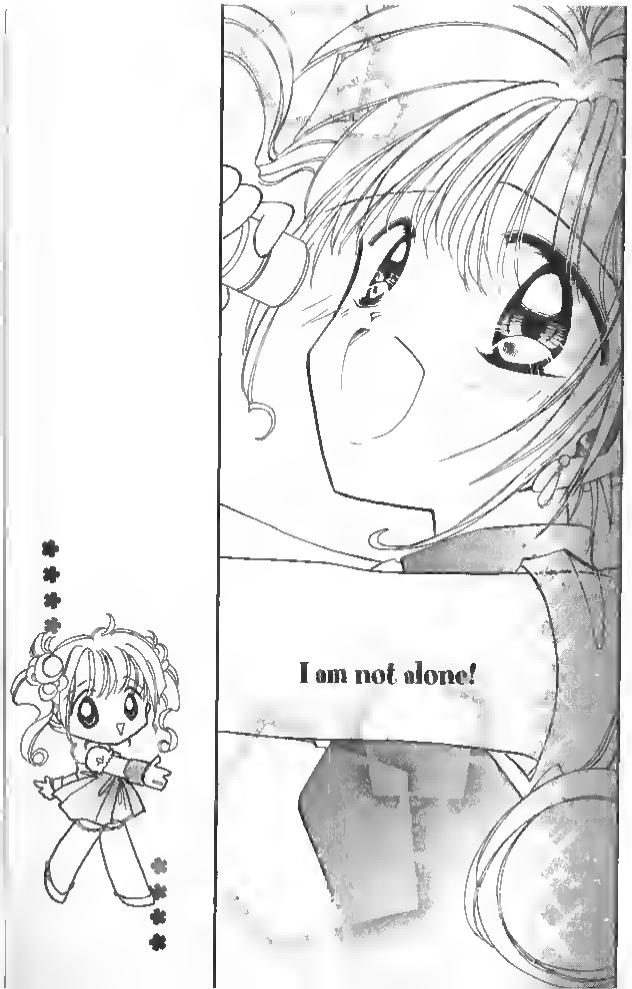
What do you think you're doing, using our !!Iliya?!!!
Hey! Whaddaya doin'?
I can't sing...!!
Motoharu!
Motoharu!
Mink, you have something to do.
The thing I was meant to do...

Let Iliya go!!
Huh?
Wh-what's up?! There's no applause.
PSS
PSS
PSS

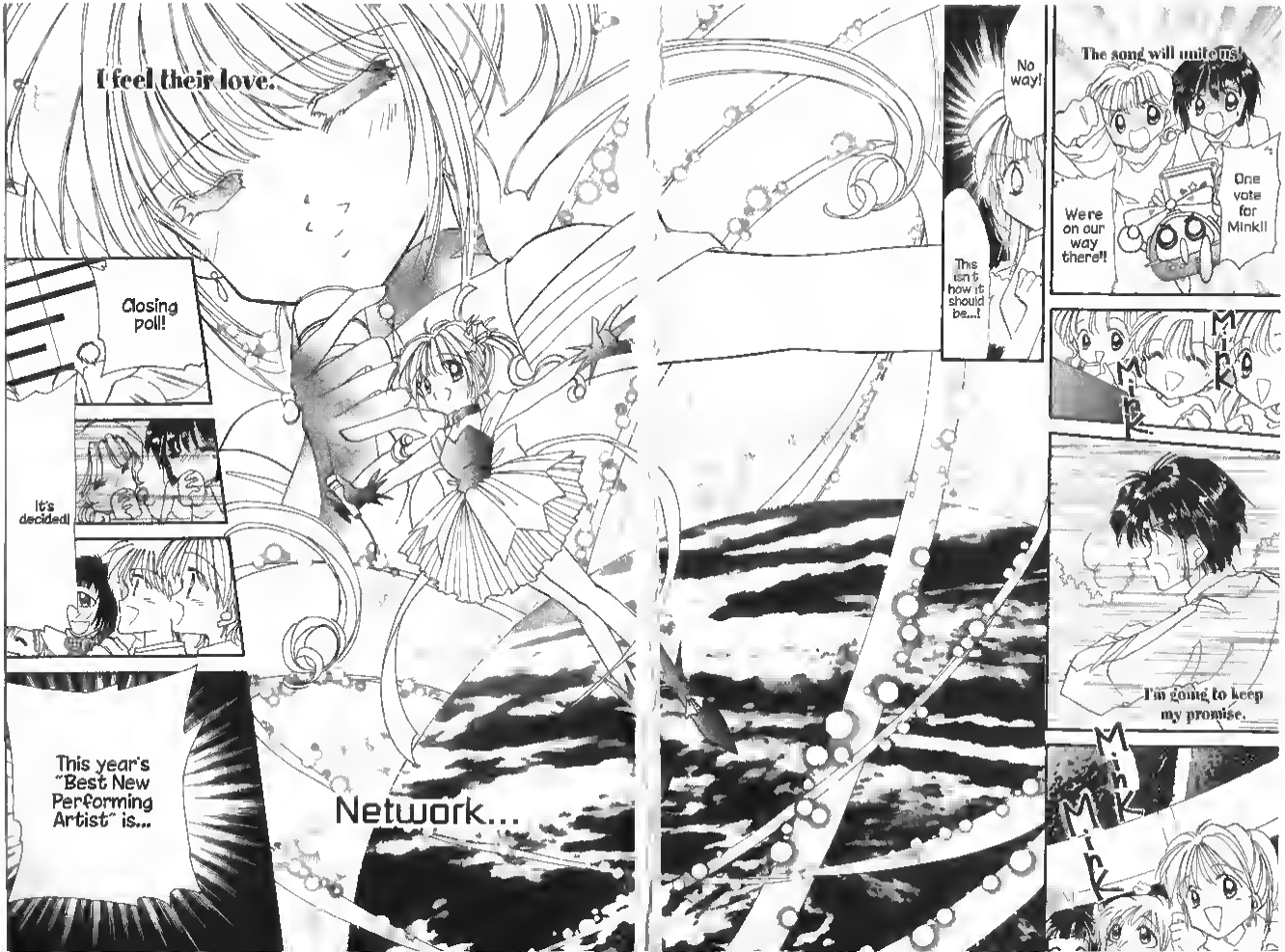
No way! I thought she would run off crying!
She smiled.
Quiet! I'm going to vote for this one!!
Hey, what's this kid's name?!
...Dad?
It's Mink
...purpose
...is to make people smile.
Stay down. Don't get up!
I just remembered something.
Don't move!! You have a head injury!
Mink?! Where am I? Backstage?
This is no time to sleep!
Are you out of your mind?!
Just keep still!
What are you doing?
Wait a--

Don't forget!
Remember me!!
A little heaven on earth
I don't mind singing alone...
...for you...
...because then I'm not really
It's like she's doing it for each of us alone.
She's a real pro.
She is cool.
And my type!
No! I'll reach you!
Even with the entire audience against her, she still has the spirit to sing...
That girl's strong.

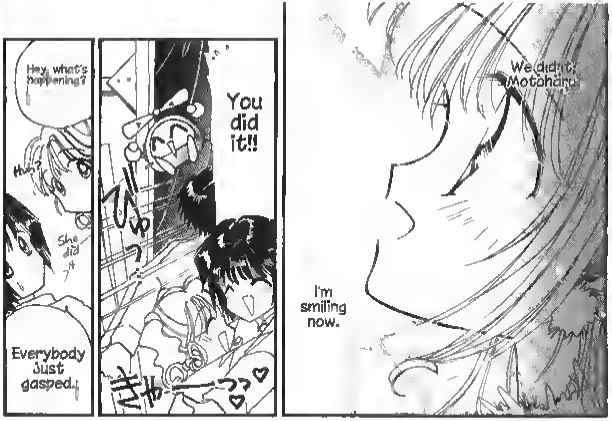
But your head!
Can't an idol's manager do what he wants?!
Aagghh!

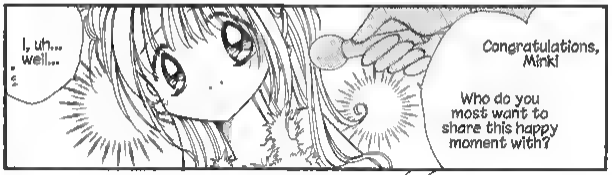

I am not alone!

It's been thirty seconds since the start of the song, but they've just extended her time.
It's like she's sharing her energy with us with this number...
One for Mink
Yes for Mink
You know, I think I might be a Mink fan.
I'm inspired!
For now, anyway.
...these circuits might overload!!
Azumi Mizuhara is climbing again, too...
Both by phone and by Internet.
The Mink vote is really spiking!


I feel their love.
Closing poll!
It's decided!
This year's "Best New Performing Artist" is...
Network...
No way!
This isn't how it should be...!
The song will unite us!
We're on our way there!!
One vote for Mink!!
Mink
I'm going to keep my promise.
Mink

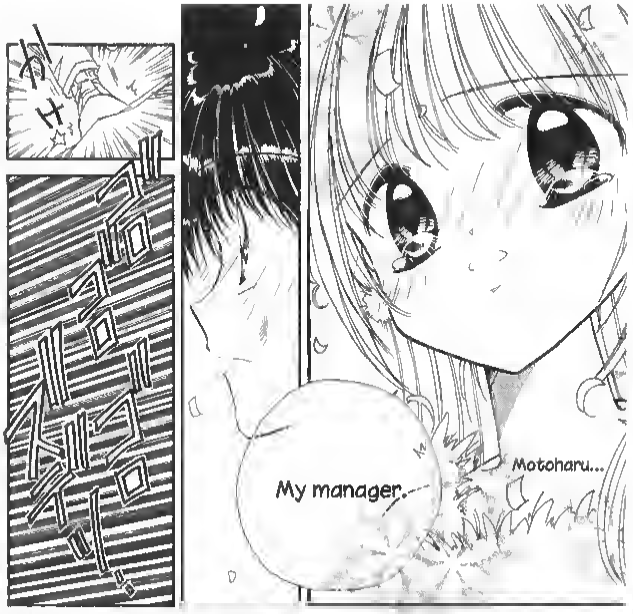
Mink!!
Mink is this year's winner!
What?
Congratulations, Mink!!


Hey, what's happening?
Huh?
She did it!
You did it!!
Everybody just gasped.
きゃーっ?♡
We didn't, Motoharu.
I'm smiling now.


I, uh... well...
Congratulations, Mink!
Who do you most want to share this happy moment with?

.....
!

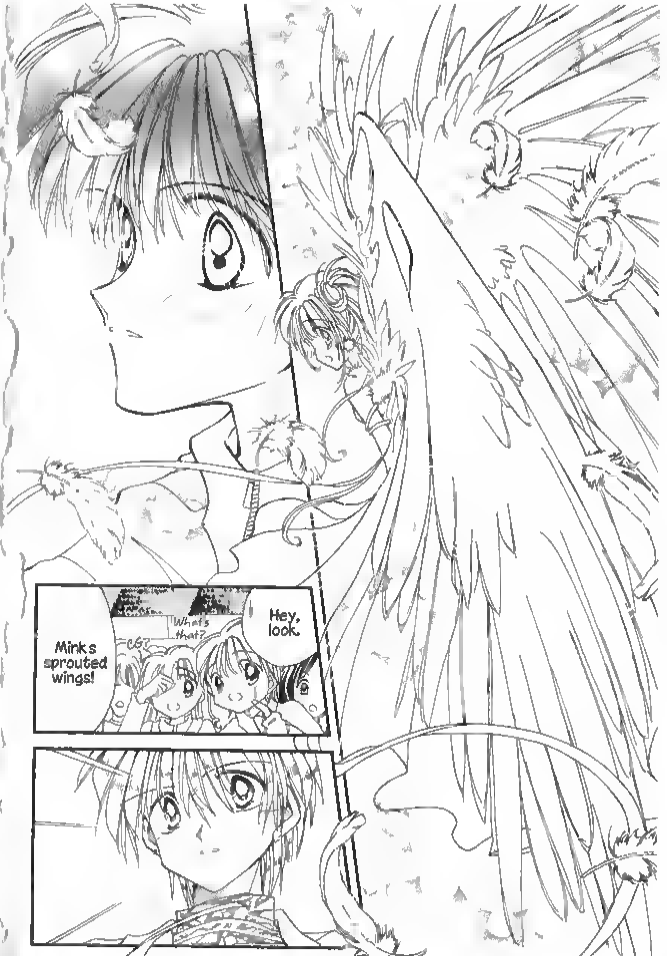
Camera one, get some audience shots.
This is not in the plan!
With that, let's set up for the next song!
He's okay.
You came to be with me.
You called me "angel."
...but...
I realized something.
Maybe it's too late, I don't know, but...


My manager...
Motoharu...

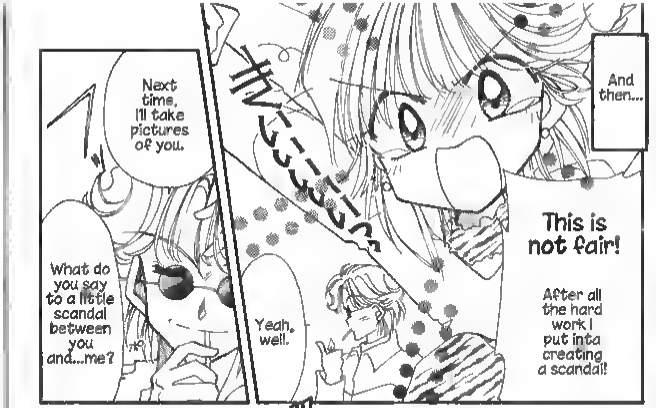
Moto—!
Huh?

Velvet Angel!!
The one who...
...gave you wings...
...Mink!!

The one who gave me wings...
...was you.
Because you're here...
...I can be "Mink."
Mink, please sing...
...your award-winning song for us.


Hey, look.
What's that?
Mink's sprouted wings!

Illiya, you're headed to America soon, right?
Can you give us some details, please?
Are you looking forward to a big debut in America?
Mink will be going with you, won't she?


Next time, I'll take pictures of you.
What do you say to a little scandal between you and...me?
Yeah, well.
And then...
This is not fair!
After all the hard work I put into creating a scandal!

Im so sorry, Azumi.
Too bad about Johnny Hotta.
You're a million years too early!!

Mink, get ready for your on-camera rehearsal.
Okay.
We start taping in 10 minutes.
Work is busier than ever before and every day there's something!!
Mink, please change into this next!
And, as for me...

And there's more
That was all for promotion. P-r-o-m-o-t-i-o-n! The talk of moving, the press conference, the so-called scandal...
...It was just part of promoting her first album.
Couldn't you tell?
WHAT?!

Ah, are you all still serious?
Huh?

Think it's okay to announce it? Mink's first album "First Kiss," goes on sale today!

Ciao!

How could he just—?
Thank you, Iliya.
Iliya!!

Thanks, folks.
All produced by Iliya.

Hmm?
Ouch, I'm sorry.
When you're stuck in the hospital like this...
I was worried about you.
Ouch, excuse me.
Um, ah...yeah.
Oh oh oh--it's really you!!
So, don't...
I've been holding up.
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to make you worry...

Covered ♡♡♡
And so, I'm counting on you, "Copy Mink"!
すたこら
Go!
But I've got to...
I have to go see Motoharu. It's time for visiting hours at the hospital!!
Huh?!
Patient Toriumi of Room 305!!
Here! I'm surrounded!
CRASH!!
Hold on--he's escaped!
Let's see, Motoharu's room is...
What?! Again?!

It's my job to worry.
You're not going to be left alone anymore.
Yes, I guess it is.
Company president's orders.
Yes, sir!
...Senpai. ♡
As always... thanks for making "Mink"...

So...
So just be near me.
Oh?
Don't take me away from my job.
What?!
How could you!!
This is no good.

TV Dramas I've watched

"Hera" was enjoyable. Also, this was the first time I understood exactly what a police inspector does. I learned a lot from this show.

"Jeshiana" and "Kabachitare!" I love Miki Mizuno and Eri Fukatsu. Both of their faces when they're troubled are very cute.

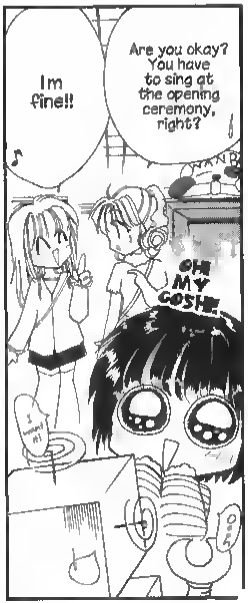
"Love Story"-- The rapid-fire repartee between Etsushi Toyokawa and Miho Nakayama is classic. The way Toyokawa got upset by the kiss, the way he walked on air over their date, the way he made a nuisance of himself and crowded her space when he was feeling real happy --it was all so funny it turned me into a fan.

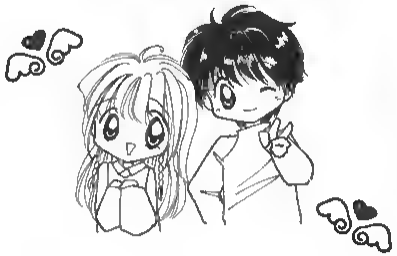
"Sir Muko" is the drama that made me cry the hardest out of all of them. When Yuuichiro Sakuraba burst into tears, I burst into tears, too!

"The Gold of a New Star"-- Beside the story, Mari Hoshino was great!!! She is so cute! I'm head over heels about that right now. Oh, and I like Yuu Yoshizawa, too. I also get to see some unusual anime.

"Star Ocean EX"-- I really liked the game, so I enjoyed it even though I already knew the whole story. I liked Professor Bowman!! Make more of these!!

It's okay because Motoharu will be looking out for me.
Rapture Mode Full Speed Ahead!
Great! You guys look like you're enjoying yourselves.

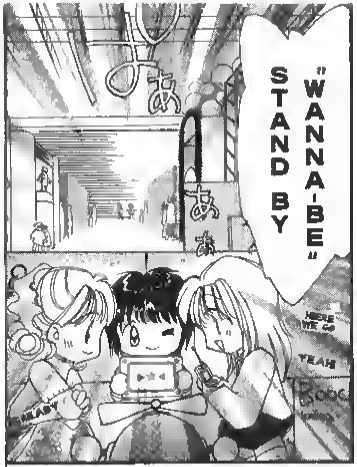

I'm fine!!
Are you okay? You have to sing at the opening ceremony, right?
OH MY GOSH!

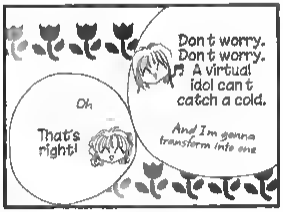


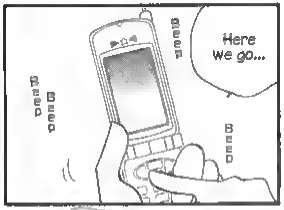
AH-CHOO!

Japan Robot Expo
ROBOT A-ZOO 1

Today we're at a robot exhibition.
Wow! A lot of my crowd is here!
Come on, let's hurry up!
Mink, do you have a cold?
Is it from this?
Really??

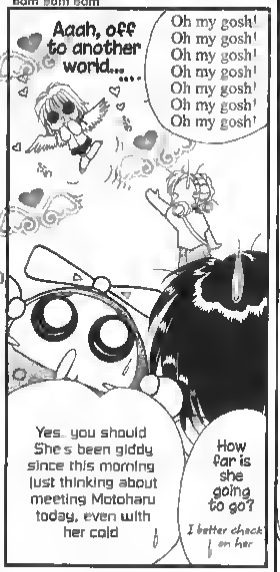






*MINK s saying this

*Bam bam bam


Aaah, off to another world....
Oh my gosh!
Oh my gosh!
Oh my gosh!
Oh my gosh!
Oh my gosh!
Oh my gosh!
Yes. you should She's been giddy since this morning Just thinking about meeting Motoharu today, even with her cold
How far is she going to go?
I better check on her

Somehow, it almost feels like things are good enough to confess everything to him.
You won't be left alone anymore.
I know that if it's up to Motoharu, things for me will be...

Huh?
Mink!!
Motoharu
Did you just sneeze? Did you catch a cold?!

Yo!
Let's give it everything we've got today!!
A-ah—
—choooo!!!

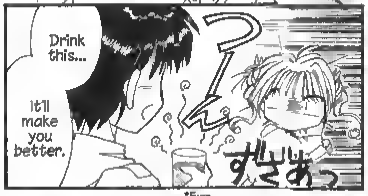
You blend 3/7 parts fresh sap to powdered newt, gecko, and rattlesnake...
ぼーげほ
ぼーげほ
ぼーげほ
ぼーげほ
ぼ
ぼ

GULP
It's my grandma's special remedy.
By "grandma" do you mean the mother of that company president...?
All from the same Toriumi household.

*Hack!
This is no way for an idol to behave!!
Drink it!! Sure you can sing with a cold—not.
Don't worry about my cold! I can go on even with a cold.
Pleeeeease!!!

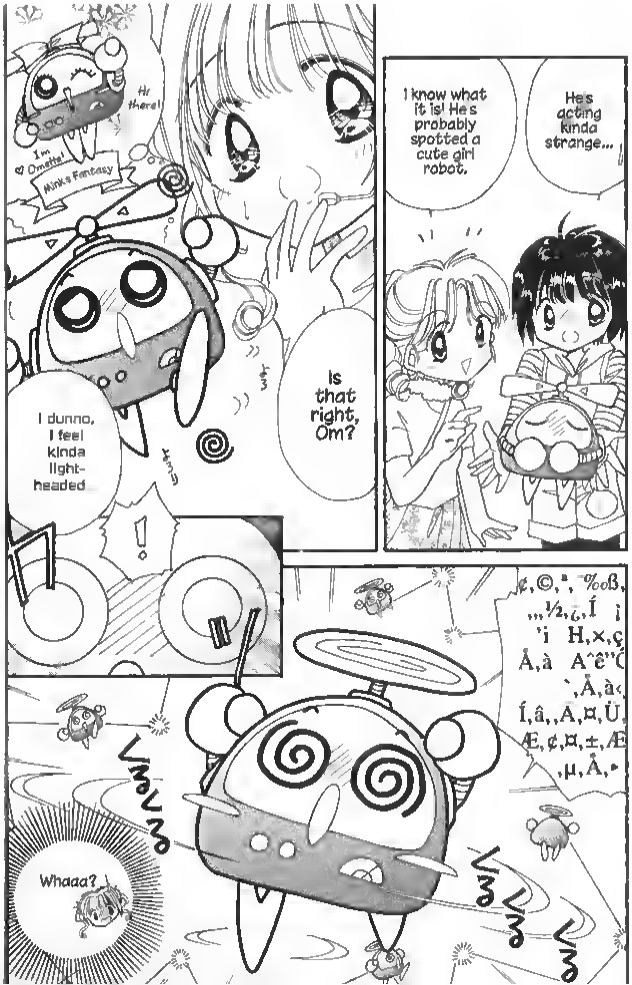
That's your first step toward becoming a world-class idol.
"Are you blind? Look at me!"
Take this herbal medicine... It works in 10 seconds!
Put this in your mouth.
This, too.

Do you have a fever?
Did you take your temperature?


Drink this... It'll make you better.
*Fizz

Wha-what is this stuff?!
*Glub

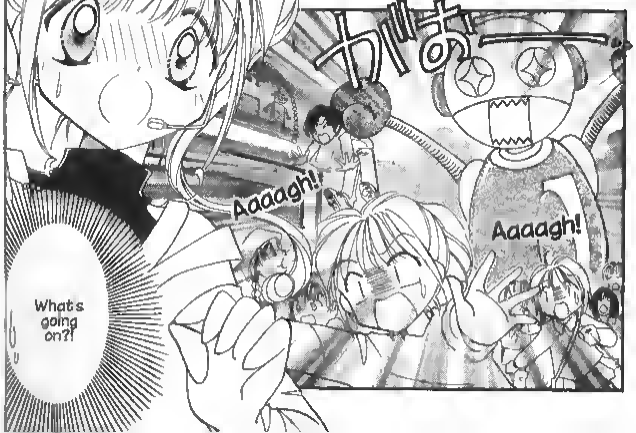
Wh-wh-what are we going to do?
どきどきどき
Can we just wing it with you sick like this?


Hi there!
I'm Omelite!
Mink's Fantasy
I dunno. I feel kinda light-headed
I know what it is! He's probably spotted a cute girl robot.
He's acting kinda strange...
Is that right, Om?
Whaaa?

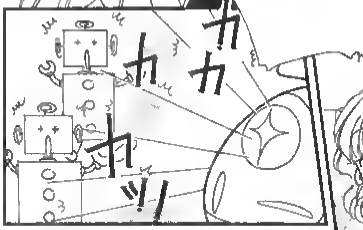
Ack!
Empty pile of clothes.
Actually,
They say it's good to take off your clothes, too.
Rattlesnake.
Rattlesnake
Rattlesnake
Rattlesnake.
Rattlesnake.
Ooh, I drank it
Hey! Where are you, Mink?
Huh? What's wrong with Om?!

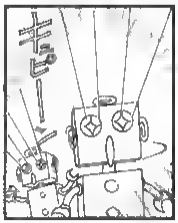
Weird! The controls have stopped working.
Whoa, that robot just--
OH!

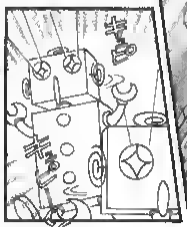
My head is spinning.
Cut it out!

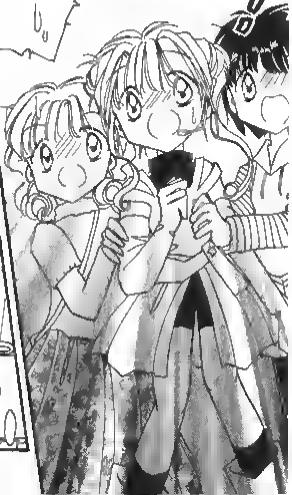

What's going on?!
Aaaagh!
Aaaagh!

*Boing!
No way, is this happening?!



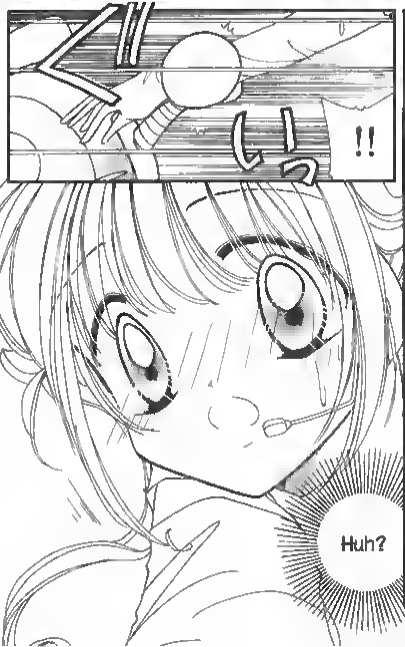






Aaaagh !!!!!!!!
Aaaa--

What could I have done??!
Kanoka, did you do something?
Mayhem!!


!!
Huh?

Om! Om! What happened?
Hang in there!

うよ、うよ、うよ
Get a...
!!
うよ
うよ
うよ

I wasn't exactly asking.
ふふん♪
If you really want to know, weez'll tell ya who we are

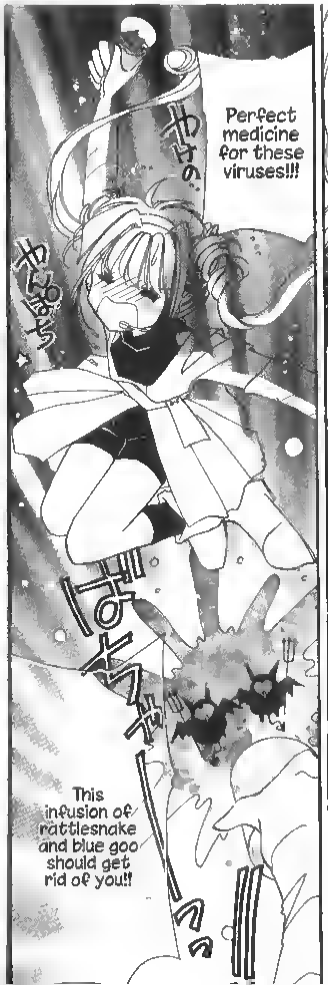
If you are infected by us,
we're unstoppable.
We are the...

Hey sugar which program ya from?
What are these things?
ふよ
ふ～ん
Ah-ha! You were probably thinking... what is this little guy— weren't you?

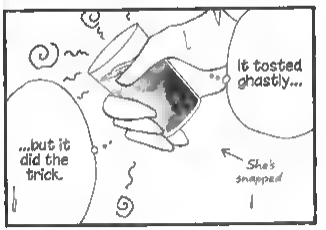
I was just with Om...
Wh...
I'm inside the conference hall's main computer?
No way!
Hey, get a grip!
Om! Om!
...where am I?

Mink!!!
They're our hostages you see
...you'd better start respecting us now!! We control all the robots here
If you looked down on us before...
Om??
Next we're going to spoil the rest of this show
This rocks!
You can't do that!

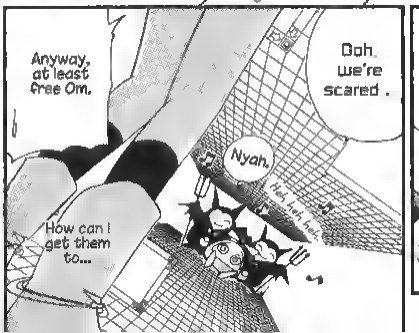
We invade the insides of a computer system and wreak total havoc
And sometimes we even shake up the entire World Wide Web!
Oh, I bet right now you're thinking "No, please don't!" Weren't you?
Computer Virus Elite!!
A computer virus?! This?!

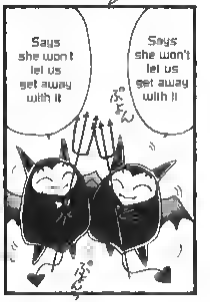

Perfect medicine for these viruses!!!
This infusion of rattlesnake and blue goo should get rid of you!!

I got it!!
My grandma's special flu medicine...


It tasted ghastly...
...but it did the trick.
She's snapped

What about the people who built the robots? What about the people who came to see the robots?
They were all here to have a good time at today's show...
I won't let you get away with messing it up for them!!


Anyway, at least free Om.
Ooh, we're scared.
Nyah.
How can I get them to...

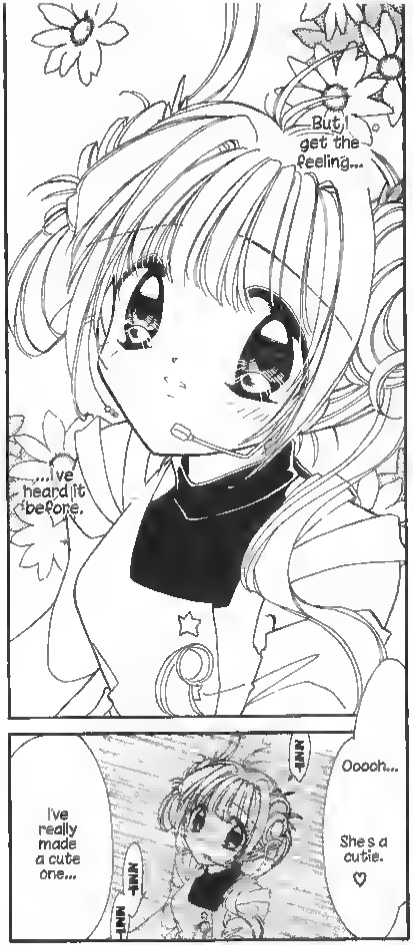

Says she won't let us get away with it
Says she won't let us get away with it

Mink!!
That's not what your strength is anyway.
Who are you?
Motoharu?
Use the functionality settings.
It's not Motoharu...?
Huh?
!!
Gyaaaa!
Did it work?!
What's this?
W...
They're very de-li-cate, you see
You really shouldn't go throwing this around inside a computer
It's annoying to even have to explain this.
True dat!
Look who's talking!
Oh...
What was I thinking?
--nk!

Beep
Beep
Beep
WANNA-BE
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
DELETE!!!
I found it!!
The Network for Settings!!
Teach me...
WANNA BE

Feeling like quite the nurse.
Make sure that your computers stay healthy, folks! Just kidding ♡
Mink Mark for Fast-Acting Relief ♡
Look
Oh, Mliiiiink!!
Om!
I'm so glad you're all better!
Thank you, Mink!!
BRRR
BRRR
Hey!
What the—!
It's back to normal!!
It quieted down.

But of course, the virus spread because Om caught Mink's cold.
Which then morphed into a computer virus- not
Yep yep yep!
All right! All right! She's that much closer to being a world-class idol.
♡
Awesome! The robots are dancing with her!!
Cool!
I wonder how this will turn out
Let's Go!!
It's "Enabled"!
We apologize for the delay.
Now we proudly announce today's special guest...
Mink!!


But, I get the feeling...
...I've heard it before.
I've really made a cute one...
MINE
MINE
MINE
Ooooh...
She's a cutie. ♡

Smells like that blue goo...
It's coming from the robots.
It smells a little like scallions here too
Doesn't something smell strange around here?
But...
Sis, it's because you're not wearing deodorant.
Speaking of which
It's because you brought scallions with you, bro.
Whose voice was that?
It's not quite Motoharu's.
Mink!!

電腦少女☆Mink
Chapter 18
Circus Game

My WANNA-BE...

NNT-
NNT-
Beep
Beep
Beep
BING

...shows how much of a genius I really am.
♡ Heh heh

It's spring!
...what they say about catching cherry blossom petals before they touch the ground being good luck?
Mink, is it true...
Huh? What?
I'm a little busy now.

Mink Rap!!

Q. At what age did you become a cartoonist? How old were you when you decided you wanted to be one?

A. I was in fifth grade the first time I drew a real set of comic frames. But I used a college-ruled notebook and drew only girls, from the shoulders up, in pencil. That's the level I was at. Then, a little later, a stationery store owner asked me, "What do you want to use that for?" and explained how I could make myself the right kind of paper for comic book frames. You see, back then, they didn't sell special drawing pads for cartoons and stuff. I got extra-large poster paper that I could cut to any size and trace any size frames. Those sheets were where I drew my first true manga. I believe. I didn't know about wash or special tones, just white backgrounds like you use when you doodle at school. It was tough because sometimes the pen made tears and the ink bled. But that's probably when I discovered that this is really what I wanted to do. Yeah, I'm totally sure that was when!!

Super Idol Mink!
A girl who can transform.
♡
Shhhhh! It's a secret ☆

This is clearly not scientific, I know--
...She's really motivated.
They're not listening
...with both sides of my brain...
If I think of Motoharu...

What do you think you're doing?!!!
Stop that!
Oh, Motoharu!! Did you know that Mink is really Cyber Idol Mink???
Ow.
That's right.
Little old me down here is really...

Give that to me! That! I want it!!
Mo, I've heard you're in trouble for having too many absences.
School called this morning
Mahoko, quit calling me "Mo."
I have work today.
LUCKY LUCKY
Work?
Don't you guys have a field trip today?
Uh, yeah, yeah, the famous "Sultan Illusion"!
You're going right?
And, the guest star is going to be Cyber Idol Mink!

Uh.
Hey! This is my chance!
ピピピ?
ミナイキキ
It's...
Aaah!
He took it!
What are you doing, Shiraishi?
You're jumping around like a rabbit
...Motoharu?!

Very interesting. ♡
Heh heh
This is wrong.
Much will come from this.
STAND-BY "WANNA-BE"
All clear?
Nobody here?
Okay!

That is my mission!
This means he's going to cut school again!
It will be full of dangerous middle and high school fans creating a mob scene!!
As Mink's manager, I have to be there to protect her!!
What?!
Is that right?
Yeah, that's right.
Oh, Motoharu..
♡
ガンバッテ
It's like you're on sabbatical.
You're the one we need to worry about.
Hmmph.
"Sultan Illusion," huh?
BEEP
BEEP

Beep
Beep
Beep
SET-UP!!!
Beep
Beep
Beep
Copy!!

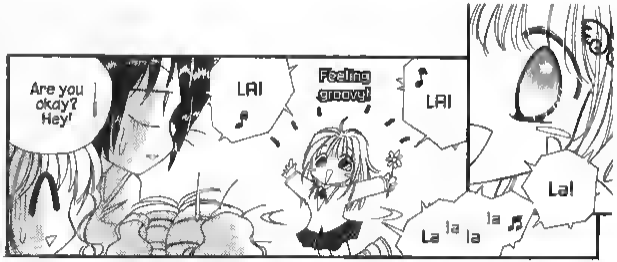
Mm-hmm
This is just the kind of situation to use the "copy" function.
Thanks in advance, "Copy Mink."
Have fun at the show for me.
Okay. "Original"

Special thanks♡

Miyuki Okazaki

Miwa Ishioka

Harumi Minami



Good luck.
Go for it.

What is this !
ぱぉーん
The flames are flying, the whips are cracking and the acrobats in the pyramid are wearing bright blue flesh suits.
I don't know what this means anymore.
The lions are roaring, the tigers are growing and the elephants are thundering at this "Sultan's Illusion."
Y-yes...!
Aah, not so good.

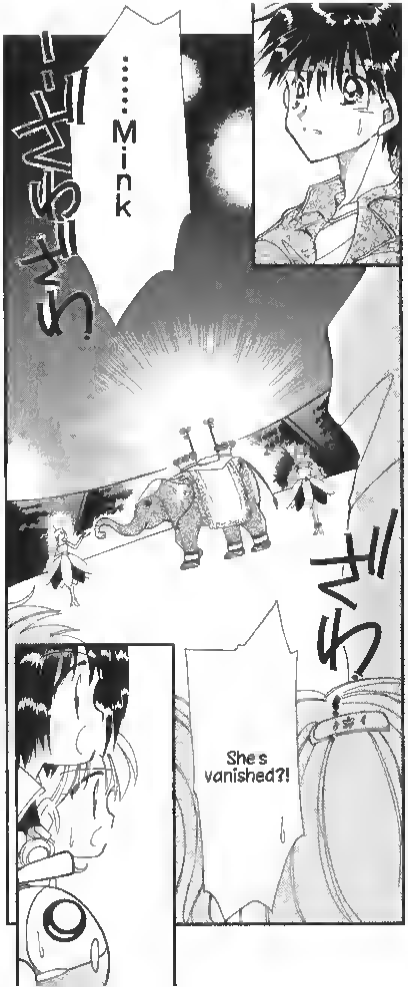
Wait a minute!
Yeah?

Um.
Ech!

What have I gotten myself into...
Just call me.
Time to go!

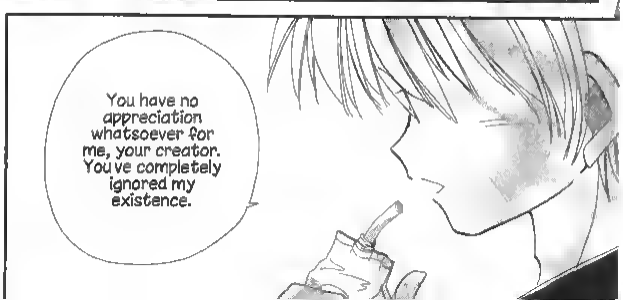
Everybody having a good time?!
Yeah
Cool!
It's like being a queen.
This is the first time I've played this kind of venue
Mink!!
And now, our special guest...
A big welcome to...
Ooooh, it's Mink! She's so cute!!
Mink! Mink!!
I will!!
That cherry blossom petal worked.
I am so lucky!
Show time!
She may not have wings, but she is some angel.
She..

NNNN!
NNNN!
Who's that?
Where'd she go?!


……Mink
She's vanished?!

I'm the one who created WANNA-BE. In other words...
Nice to meet you, Product Mink.
You're the voice I heard before!!
I am a certified, grade A-level programmer, Kyo S. Falwell.
Im-impossible.
I am the one who created you. Understand?

What? What just happened?
This is...
...the same place as before!
It's cyberspace, the place where you were born.
Huh?!


You have no appreciation whatsoever for me, your creator. You've completely ignored my existence.

You're just the right thing to use...
...for the whole world to recognize my true power.
BEEP
Well, are you going to present the new edition of WANNA-BE to future centuries, or aren't you?!
BEEP
Huh?!
BEEP
What is this guy saying?
He's making no sense.
Waait...
BEEP
Noooo.
Waitー

Deadpan
...hack your friend's computer.
My heart
Won't you join me for an iron-fortified drink?
You look a little pale
His version of inviting her to tea.
Wait a minute, I don't get it.
This must be a gag
Oh, never mind.
It's a bummer that you're not my era.
From the future?!
No way!
What I did was simple, really. I connected the past and the future to create the "Extreme Time-Space Network."
By connecting it I was able to...

Idiot!!
I said to call on me if she got into this kind of situation!!
Did. You. See?
My true power.
Beep
Beep
Now for something even more fun.
Coordinates 9-5, movement, and...
I'll set it up now.

Help me!!!
What's going on?!
Munks on the tightrope!
When did she get up there?

On a flying trapeze?!
Huh?
She could fall!
Mink!!
!!
GASP!
Oh no.
She disappears again?!
Oh!
Awesome!
!
Coordinates ♬ 11-3.
Aaaggghhh!
Agh!
Truly a world-class illusion show.
GLAM GLAM GLAM
Ooooh, ahhhh.
Stop playing around!!!
NO WAY!! Kyo!!!

I'm like...

...the falling cherry blossom petal.

Incredible.
Just look at her...my Super Idol.
Beep
Well.
Let's try this.
Wha...?!
!!
Amazing!
A...

What...
...happened?

!!
Kanoka?
Mahoko?!

This story is going to replace our lead entertainment story!
Is it true their opening concert's in a week?
So Bird Music just did this on a whim?
We're now at the site of the press conference.
It's not certain, but it seems there will be a three-girl group that will include Mink.

Mink Rap!!

Q Tell us what a typical day is like for you, please.

A When I'm not eating, sleeping or puttering around the house, I'm working. I'm the kind of person who just can't pull all-nighters, so I sleep my normal hours even before a deadline. It depends on the time of year, but I usually sleep about five hours. By the way, when it comes to housework, I like laundry, but I haaaaate ironing.

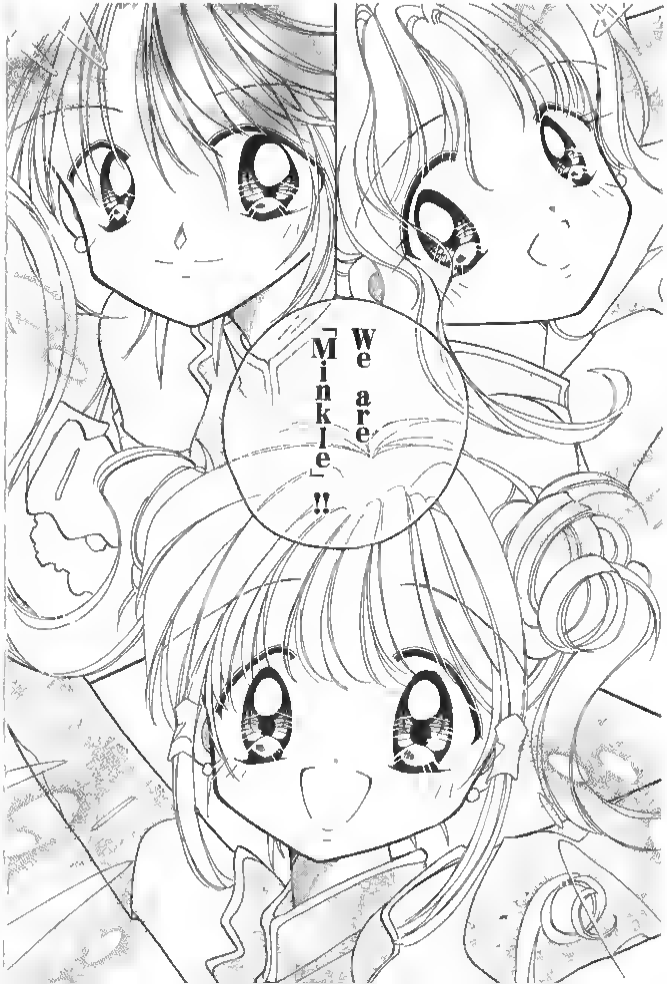
Q Please tell us what a typical month is like for you.

A A plot takes about three days. Then it takes five to six more for a name. I take about three to four days to do a color manuscript and then about five to six days to do the sketches. Then, working with a hands-on assistant, it takes another week at best. At that rate, I get two or three days break and it comes to a month.

To be continued with a new plot. That's how it goes, hi hi!

Canon
Mink
Maco
Minkle
FLASH FLASH
FLASH
The group's name is "Minkle."
Can I get the three of you to face this way?
Will Mink be doing solos?
Come on, say something for your fans!!
Chapter 19
The Birth of Minkle!
電脳少女☆Mink

SMILE
Wish us your best!
The future looks bright...
...but back a week in the past--
Oh no! What's happening to us!?

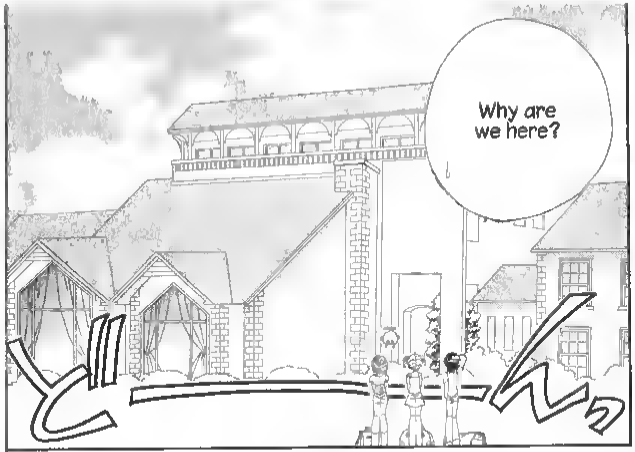

We are ¬Minkle¬ !!

Mink!!
It's my brother!!
I'm so glad you're safe.
Huh ?!!
What should we do?
Oh!
These are my friends...
...Canon and Maco!!
Pleased to meet you!♡
What else could I do on the spot?
Moron! Give us a better intro than that!
Sorry!
Uh

Kanoka, did you install something again?
I don't know anything about this!
How did we wind up here?
What's with this get-up?
Whoa Nani?
They're cute
Just relax...
...and enjoy the show.
Hey, everybody!
Couldn't you just picture this?
Bring us to ~Sultan Illusion~!♡

It's not as easy as making a cup of instant noodles, you know!!
Let's form a band.
All three of you...♫
No way.
You will, won't you? ♡
This is truly--- this is just--- you've already taken them by storm. It would be a shame if you split up now...
How did all this happen?!
I've been discovered by my own brother.
Shocking
Someone like me become an idol... an idol?!
Wobble
カーン
カーン...

Hey, do you guys want to become Idols?!
We're so sorry!!
Just go with the flow!
I have just, right here, right now, had a great thought!
If not, why don't you join my client roster?! That's it!!
Scout Spirit!
Do you have an agent yet?
What?!

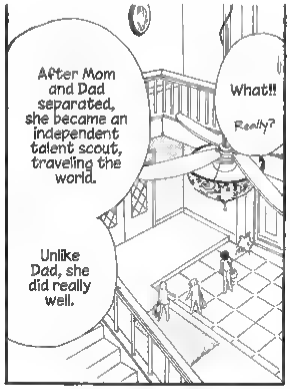

Why are we here?

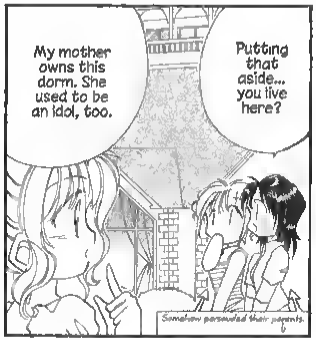
...his limit!
Managing Mink, Yuka and us all by himself, I think Ma has reached...
He can't find anywhere to hide from our yells
Enough already. Go find a place to stay.
Just go park yourselves somewhere until the concert.
C'mon, it's spring break!

BECAUSE
You already asked
Let's explain it to you, Maco!!
Already so confused.

A CD debut?!
Kyaaaa!
Wait!
CUT.
Sure... not listening
It's all...
...happening so fast!
Waaaaahh!!
Autograph?!
It's Minkie
Ugh, they've took our picture
Turn this way, please?
Goddamm#!!
...now what do we do?
So...
Wow

Yuck.
Lets all be great friends!
Come on!
Yay!
I guess you've all heard about everything now.
It's too sickeningly sweet. We'll never get back to normal if we buy into this.
Isn't this disgusting?
Yeah.
Not again
I'm tired of this.
?
Besides, think of Motoharu...


After Mom and Dad separated, she became an independent talent scout, traveling the world.
What!!
Really?
Unlike Dad, she did really well.


My mother owns this dorm. She used to be an idol, too.
Putting that aside... you live here?
Somehow persuaded their parents.

My mom has worried about Ma since she and Dad divorced. She wants to let him work with Dad alone, so she stays quiet about this place.
Wow.
She bought this place and meant to use it for training the models and entertainers she recruited.

Yu-Yuka?!
Oooh, Mink's here, too?
Hey! Who did you think it was?

"A hundred faces."
What's with him?
Why'd he come back to this era?
Kya!
Why? Why?
Aaah!
Motoharu, do you think we could, starting tonight, stay here...?
That's not it
Come on, come on. Let's get to work.
Will my performers want to begin practicing again?
That would be okay. Until now I've tried to stay in Dad's camp...
... But things have changed. I used to stay over at the office, but now I don't have to.
From now on, as much as I can...
... I want to be near you.

How 'bout a room?
We absolutely want one three-person room!!
We can't stand around all day.
Wow.
I wonder how things will be from now on?
What if that jerk Kyo did this?!
POW

Yes, that's right!
As your manager I have to be here to make sure everything's all right for my top idol.
What I meant, um, ah, was...
What did I get myself into!
I wonder if this is a drag for you.
That suddenly things have changed and I'm here with you...
Wait--
You're gonna wear yourself out.
No No No No No No
No No No No No No
I...
Just to be near you...
I want that now more than ever.
I wasn't thinking that at all...
Not at all.

I am here...
...with you.
Oh!

Something's about to happen...
...with the beginning of this new life.
I'll do my darned best!
It's like a dream come true...
If the three of you don't sleep under covers... you'll catch cold you know

WANNA-BE
STAND BY!!
"WANNA BE"
Come on, people from the future, or whatever.
It's not creepy because there's three of us.
We're gonna be idols!!

How is the new cell phone? Working well?
It's bling-bling now.♡
A-okay and ready to go.
♡
Twinkle Minkl
It's the Minkle Formation Concert--
We're ready to rock!
--"Twinkle Minkle Star, 2001."
Okay, I'm going out.
Roger!

NO!
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
WANNA-BE
SET-UP!!!

What..
!!
...is this place?!
Be careful.
This is such a weird feeling!!!
Kyo must be nearby!!
!

Why don't you quit messing around with our data?!
Darn right! We're not here for your amusement!
Aaaagh!!!
.....!
What the--?! We're falling!

Well?
Today I thought I'd change scenes a little.
Did he screw this up?
That jerk.
Uh-huh.

Oooh!
That awesome WANNA-BE software I created, that gave birth to you guys!
They banned it from sale because they said, "It's deadly software that could be misused to wreak havoc." Those JERKS!
Deadly software? Banned from sale?!
Of course, something like that won't stop me.

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January- May 2001

Oh!
Don't be idiots.
It's just an image of the future.
So you can't fall into it
How can you fight at a time like this?!
What? How about you?
Why don't you fall first?
Yeah.
That's where all the idiots, who refuse to recognize my programming genius, live.
This is the world where I live.

What are you saying!?
It's the natural order of things. I created you, I control you.
Do you want people to find out who you really are?
What would your precious Motoharu think of you then?
Especially you, Mink?
CONTINUED IN VOLUME 5

The good thing for me is, if the future fails me, I can travel back to the past and become the most powerful man there.
Isn't that right?
Because I make nice-looking things like you.
My WANNA-BE program is, well...
This guy is sketchy.
Is WANNA-BE really that dangerous?
Is it Om?
As for you, from now on...
...you'll be working for your inventor, me.
We've all...
...used it!

Mink Rap!!

Q. How do you choose the names of your characters?

A. I think I've answered this one before, but I'll respond again. First I decide the story, then I decide the characters and then I give them names. I think up one to match the feel of the character, the personality of the character and of course the story itself. But maybe one thing that's my "signature" is always keeping the Japanese alphabet in mind when I choose them. For example, I think an active, cheerful character would sound like the beginning of the Japanese alphabet, ka-ki-ku-ke-ko. A beautiful but quiet character would sound like the next line of the alphabet, sa-shi-su-se-so. Na-ni-nu-ne-no are sounds for a character who needs to rely on others. I think names with the consonants ha hi-hu he ho in them sound like they would be intelligent. I usually pick names with ma-mi-mu-me-mo in them for my heroes because I think those consonants sound like they'd be for someone cute. I think ra-ri-ru-re-ro letters sound colorful and a little competitive, so I often use them for the name of my hero's main rival. After that, I kinda just pick whatever name for other characters. One other thing. I really only use this way of thinking about the alphabet with girls' names. With guys' names, I tend to pay more attention to the meaning of the Chinese-style characters I would use to make their names.

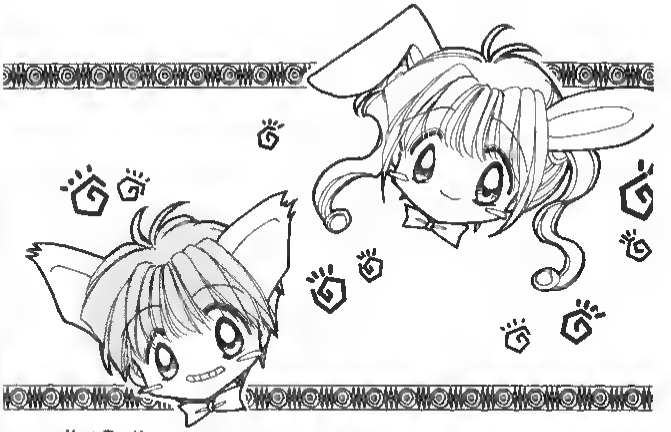
Mink Rap!!

Q. For color manuscripts, are the same pens you use for regular drawing good enough? And is regular drawing pad paper okay, too?

A. Basically, you could use anything for color comics. But it's best to choose something that will make the colors come alive (something that will keep the colors crisp and clean when you go to print it). Colored inks are pretty. (I have used Dokutea Maachin and Rume, but now almost everyone uses Copic.) You should use a coating to prevent smudging if you decide to use crayon or pastels. Use a pure white sheet of paper with nothing previously written on it (although there are times you might deliberately choose to draw on a colored sheet). There are a lot of different kinds of stock papers for watercolors, so try them out if you use colored ink (I use Canson).

Let's meet in Volume 5

Megumi Tachikawa



Mink Rap!!

Q. Do you get to decide how many pages your manga books are?

A. Someone from the editorial department decides that. If the editor tells you "32 pages," you can't just arbitrarily increase it or decrease it by one page. If you don't keep it a tight 32 pages, there's a problem. They give me a lot of grief. A lot. Usually it's because they don't like the storyboard.

Q. Do you mind getting feedback on your old comic books in fan letters?

A. Not at all. I also like "meeting" with some of my old characters, like Meimi and Yuki. It even shocks me or brings tears to my eyes when a fan points out something I hadn't noticed in real time as I was drawing the characters. I love having people remember my stuff. It's like the character I gave life to is still alive inside of everyone--that really makes me overjoyed. That carries over to my next project and really makes me feel like I'm repaying a debt by creating something new for my fans. I mean, if you'd like, please keep loving my characters for me. Anyway, right now I want to continue drawing with all my heart to make the Mink characters the ones that will remain in everyone's memory. I'm always grateful, truly grateful, for praise. Don't worry. I read every single letter I receive, even though I can't answer them. I do apologize.

COMING SOON!

電脳少女☆ Mink

VOLUME 5

Mink is naw joined by her twa best friends ta form the graup Minkle! With her buddies' suppart, Mink thinks she can keep up with the hectic cancert taur while keeping ane step ahead of cyber-freak Kya, who cantinues to wreak havac (this time with WANNA-BE 2.0, praving that upgrades aren't always gaad). Meanwhile, Minkle plans a dream getaway to Hawaii, but befare they're aff the graund, the band finds aut that nat all fans are wha they appear ta be. *Mink Volume 5* delivers a much more savvy Mink wha gets the hang af reading people, cyberdraids, and WANNA-BE functions. Keep with the series and yau might, toa!

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MINK™

The show must go on! Even though Mink has lost a lot of fans after the scandal with Illiya, she still must participate in the Platinum Disk contest. But to make matters worse, Motoharu is involved in an accident while protecting Mink from the paparazzi. Is Mink's star finally fading?

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